

Mirror editorials, etc.

Drilling to protect the people

The Carbondale Bureau of Fire recently held a fire drill at the Carbondale General Hospital.

Now, that in itself is not news because the fire department has always held drills to better prepare itself.

The purpose of this editorial is to let everyone know that these drills are serious business — that while they are only drills they are meant to be taken seriously because the practice taken now could very well save a life should the real thing ever take place.

So let's hear it for the volunteer firefighters who give up nights at home to drill now to save lives later.

Mock disasters, too

Of course, we don't want to slight the volunteer ambulance corps whose members are constantly training because nearly every call they receive could be a life-saving one.

These people hold many training sessions during the year, taking tests to advance themselves, attending classes, and taking part in drills — usually called mock disasters.

Top of the town

HOPE YOU ALL had a Happy Thanksgiving Day.

MUST SAY that everyone seemed to be having a good time at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel's Harvest Festival held the other Sunday evening at the church auditorium. We didn't know that Domenick "Spice" Maza (my name's Harry) was part of the featured entertainment.

FROM CHINA comes this note: A publication there recently asked for more freedom in printing items of opinion, stating that the government seemed a little too strict on this matter.

Well, the government replied that anyone who could express their opinions in writing, so long as...

Those opinions were written in one's personal diary and... That diary is not read by anyone else other than the writer!

THINK ABOUT that for a while, friends. It's true!

MOVING RIGHT along, we continue with this week's fun-filled, name-dropping column.

By NAN WATERS

There is a very nice custom among some ethnic groups of placing an extra plate at their holiday dinner table, in the event an unexpected "traveler" or guest shows up in need of sustenance. Whether or not anybody ever does is unimportant.

As the holiday season approaches, we are reminded of many elaborate Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners where we were growing up in the thirties and forties.

It's difficult for me to remember one that did not include a few extra guests. The family of three adults just next door, the couple down the street whose only son was in the service during WW II, a first cousin of my Dad's who had been widowed, twice.

The folks next door had a few cousins who showed up from time to time, and they were invited. Too, and then we'd alternate with the neighbors, having one dinner at our house, and the next at theirs.

My Mother always went to great lengths for holiday meals. The best Haviland china, the good crystal, the family silver were all brought out and polished for the big meal.

These mock disasters test not only the corps personnel, but also the hospitals to which they are sent. In this day and age of chemical leaks, bus accidents, airliner crashes, the possibility of a large-scale disaster in this area or anywhere is not as remote as we would think.

Thus, these precautions taken by ambulance corps personnel should not be taken lightly by the general public.

Welcome, MICU

The upper-valley mobile intensive care unit went into action last Monday morning at 8.

The rolling intensive care unit is different from any others in the area since it does not transport the trauma patients it treats.

Unlike the intensive care unit based in Scranton, the one based at St. Joseph's Hospital responds to trauma situations and then uses the ambulance of the local volunteer corps to transport the patient.

This cooperation is urgently needed to provide this area with the finest emergency medical care available — anywhere!

By the way, the upper valley mobile intensive care unit responded to three calls during its first 24 hours in operation.

Bad news time...

SEEMS AS THOUGH this time of year

WE WERE GLAD to have John

Kamen

of the *Forrest Gump* News story by the Mirror off the other day.

THE CAR of the Week is the Goethebiom, introduced in 1902.

FROM OUR DUSTY FILES of smart things to say at parties.

"There is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us, it's hard to tell which of us ought to reform the rest of us."

SO FAR THIS WEEK we feel that we offended only 26 people.

That's a new record for us.

THE YEAR was 1949 and The Irving Theatre was showing "He Walked by Night," a whodunit starring Richard Baxter and Scott Brady.

Meanwhile, on that same April night, the Majestic Theatre was showing Roy Rogers in "The Far Frontier."

The creamy linen tablecloth and napkins were lifted out of the little flowered covers they slept in all year, in an upstairs dresser drawer. The serving pens and silver candelabras and extra table leaves were all pressed into service.

There were always saffron cake and pies, cold slaw and jams, sometimes even homemade rolls and bread. We used bread "butter plates and butter knives on holidays."

Now I'm at the other end of the spectrum. The pig-nosed little girl with the Dutch boy haircut is now a single parent, busy with a inclination to cook at all. Now my teenage daughter and I are the "extra guests" at holiday tables in other people's homes.

I like to think that somewhere, my gracious and adaptable Mother, on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, is looking down, pondering "that" nice "Nan and Marge" were invited out for a holiday dinner! Nobody should be alone on a holiday.

I always wondered why my Mother went to so much trouble for these gigantic holiday feasts. Looking back, I don't suppose I

is always a time of paradox. Christmas is around the corner and it usually means a time of giving. But the fiscal new year is also around the corner and that means a time of taking.

The world is now out that the city administration's budget is looking for an eight-mill increase.

And Jermyn's council members are eyeing a three-mill increase for that borough.

Happy New Year, everyone!

Before we leave our readers with the impression that the skies are cloudy and that the future is dim, take note.

Our municipal governments have learned that cooperating is a good way to get things done more economically.

Jermyn and Mayfield operate a municipal garbage collection system together.

The City of Carbondale now purchases rock salt in cooperation with the Lackawanna County Council of Governments. And the recent purchase of two police cars was done through a state-wide buying program.

Cooperation is no longer just a means of being nice. It has become a means of survival.

We can think of more ways of cooperating which need to be explored by area communities, but we'll save elaborating on those for a later date.

AND WHO SAID that Carbondale was not a town?

A YOUNG WORKER who had been looking for most of the past year approached an older man just before he was to be released for a raise.

"Do you think," he asked anxiously, "that I'll get a raise?"

"Son," the older worker replied, "you make me think of a thermometer in a cold room. You can make it register higher by warming the room."

HAVE TO mention Grace Myle here. Actually, we should have said that quite a bit sooner for all that she has done for us.

LET'S HERE if the past because that's where it all happened.

HEARD THAT Jerry Williams was spotted in Hallowick's Pharmacy in Jermyn. He even acted as though he belonged there, we were told.

SO, THERE WE ARE for this week's issue. Too late!

appreciated them that much. Now I do. It never occurred to me to ask why we always had somebody extra at our growing board, other friends, relatives or neighbors.

If anyone had thought to ask, my Mother would probably have replied, "Well, we have so much to share, it would be a shame not to. And besides, no one should be alone on a holiday."

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Weekly police report

Incidents

Sunday, Nov. 22
Police cited an 18-year-old Vandalism youth for drinking after his car was spotted on N. Church Street at 10 p.m. with beer.

Cited for purchase, consumption, possession and transportation of alcoholic beverages was Stanley F. Coar, Jr., 407 Main St. Vandalism, Police confiscated several containers of beer from the car. Sgt. Jay McDonald issued the citation.

Monday, Nov. 23
At 9 p.m. police received a complaint from Deborah Moran, 47 Summit Ave., Carbondale, that vandals had broken a window on her apartment. Patrolman Francis Coleman took the complaint.

At 11 a.m. police were summoned to the Alto residence, 104 Brook St., Carbondale, where they were told that a wooden fence alongside the house had been damaged.

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Church notes

First United Methodist Church of Carbondale
Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m., quilters will meet at 10 Westgate Drive, Carbondale, at 10:15 p.m., Methodist Beaux and Belles Church practice, 7:30 p.m., 6 p.m., the Jewel Bible Chorus will meet in the church for a covered dish supper.

Friday, Dec. 4, 8-9:30 p.m., Spark rehearsal.
Sunday, Dec. 6, 9-15 a.m., church school; 10:30 a.m., morning worship service; 5:30 p.m., Methodist Beaux and Belles Church practice, 7:30 p.m., 6 p.m., the Jewel Bible Chorus will meet in the church for a covered dish supper.

Monday, Dec. 7, 5 p.m., Youth Bell Choir practice, 6 p.m., Methodist Beaux and Belles Church practice.
Wednesday, Dec. 9, 8-9:30 a.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, Carbondale, Holy Eucharist, hearing service, the rector.

First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale
Wednesday, Dec. 2, 6-8 p.m., Junior Choir rehearsal; 7:30 p.m., Senior Choir rehearsal; 7:30 p.m., Bible study and prayer service.
Thursday, Dec. 3, 6-8 p.m., OSENC/Class Christmas party.

Saturday, Dec. 5, 6-8 p.m., Couples Club Christmas party.
Sunday, Dec. 6, 9-15 a.m., Sunday School, 11 a.m., morning worship service, with sermon by the Rev. Charles F.J. Starzer, pastor, 6 p.m., Junior Youth Fellowship, 7 p.m., Senior Youth Fellowship.

Tuesday, Dec. 8, 6 p.m., Presbyterian Women's Association Christmas dinner.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Carbondale
Daily Masses are held at 7 a.m. and 7:30 a.m.
Saturday Masses are: 8 a.m., 7 p.m., and 7:30 a.m.

Sunday Masses are: 7:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m., and 11 a.m.
Sunday, Dec. 13, 2-4 p.m., Christmas party for all the children of the parish, from grades kindergarten to sixth, in the church auditorium, Fallbrook St., Carbondale. Any children of the seventh and eighth grades wishing to attend are also welcome.

First United Methodist Church, Jermyn
Thursday, Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m., Chancel Choir rehearsal; 7 p.m., Junior Choir rehearsal; 7:30 p.m., Senior Choir rehearsal.
Sunday, Dec. 6, Second Sunday of Advent, 10 a.m., morning worship, with the sermon, "The Coming of Christ," Scripture, Isaiah 11:1-10 and the Gospel, Luke 12:35. Special music will be provided by the church choir. The Youth Fellowship will conduct the lighting of the Advent candles. Visitors are welcome; members are expected. A nursery is available during the worship service. 11:15 a.m., Sunday School classes for all ages, pre-school through adult, 6 p.m., Youth Fellowship meeting.

Tuesday, Dec. 8, 3 p.m., JOY meets at 4:45 p.m., the Pastor-Parish Committee will meet with District Superintendent Rev. James Wert.
Wednesday, Dec. 9, 6 p.m., the United Methodist Church, Jermyn, is looking down, exactly in the spot where... but in far away field they'll surely be, in recovery from pneumonia and frost.

These dedicated hunters dream of the one they lost.
Saturday Masses: 5:15 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8:45-7:20 p.m.
Sunday Masses: 6 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12 noon, and 5:15 p.m.

St. Rose of Lima Church, Carbondale
Daily Masses: 6:30 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 5:15 p.m.
Saturday Masses: 5:15 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8:45-7:20 p.m.
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Mirror consumer news

Endearing desserts for Holiday gifts

COCO-RUMSER

TORTE
6 squares (6 ounces) semi-sweet chocolate
2/3 cup CocoRibe coconut rum liqueur
3 tablespoons light corn syrup
2 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
1 cup ground, toasted almonds
1/2 cup confectioner's sugar

In top of double boiler, melt chocolate over hot (not boiling) water; remove from heat.
Stir in coconut rum liqueur and corn syrup until mixture is smooth.
In large bowl, combine graham cracker crumbs, almonds and confectioner's sugar.
Add chocolate mixture; mix well.
Press into an 8-inch springform pan.
Chill 2 hours until firm. Remove from pan.

Spread with Chocolate Glaze. Chill 1 hour until glaze sets.
For snowflake pattern, place paper doily over torte.
Sprinkle with confectioner's sugar. Carefully remove doily.
YIELD: 10 to 12 servings.

Chocolate Glaze

2 squares (2 ounces) semi-sweet chocolate
1 tablespoon light corn syrup

The pre-holiday frenzy can leave any homemaker in a quandary. There's gift buying and wrapping... preparing elaborate menus... making sleeping arrangements for guests... and in the midst of all this you've been invited to a number of parties and expect to attend them all. Time, as they say, is of the essence.

Is there time to prepare homemade gifts? Baskets and balls, pomanders, candies or cookies? They're certainly appropriate offerings to show you care on those occasions of cheer. But there's a morsel who you can't make it easy on yourself and still create distinctive gifts.

Two elegant holiday presents — a no-bake cake and a fruit conserve — are so beautiful to look at and taste so delicious that you might have trouble parting with them. The secret is in easy preparation.

What makes them such inspired recipes is the addition of velvety CocoRibe coconut rum liqueur, a blend of wild island coconut and Virgin Island rum that brings sunny cheer to winter days.

The Coco-Rumser Torte, a dense, chewy cake, carries the nutty flavor of toasted almonds and the melt-in-the-mouth richness of semi-sweet chocolate.

The ingredients "glue" with liquor for a very sophisticated dessert. And, its delicately laced pattern of confectioner's sugar over a chocolate glaze makes this torte irresistible.

Spread with Chocolate Glaze. Chill 1 hour until glaze sets.
For snowflake pattern, place paper doily over torte.
Sprinkle with confectioner's sugar. Carefully remove doily.
YIELD: 10 to 12 servings.

Chocolate Glaze
2 squares (2 ounces) semi-sweet chocolate
1 tablespoon light corn syrup

The beauty of the conserve is that it lasts for weeks and improves with age, because the liqueur becomes more intense and the longer the conserve is stored. So, special friends will be reminded of your thoughtfulness and affection long past the holidays.

Shopping at auction is often the way to get a good buy. Before you make your bid, however, consider all the financial aspects of an auction. If you can't be present at the auction, or if you want to avoid overbidding, ask whether the auction house accepts advance bids by mail or phone. The house will execute your bid when you provide the sale and refund if you discover your lot to be fraudulent.

At the auction, carefully examine the merchandise and make up your mind bid. Know the terms of sale and acceptable means of payment before you bid. If they are not printed in the catalogue, ask an attendant or the auctioneer.

Terms of sale include the buyer's commission. Most auctions charge 10 percent of the final or "hammer" price.

Double check the estimate on any item if you are unsure of its worth. Ask the house expert for an opinion of the estimate and a guess at the final price. Compare the estimate with prices at other auctions, flea markets and antique stores.

Decide not only how much the item is worth but how much you are willing to pay when you bid, be sure of the amount you are offering. The increments of bidding depend on the starting price of the item. For a \$50 item, the bids may increase at the rate of \$10. A \$1,000 item, however, may increase \$500 at one time. If the price rises, the increments may change.

Ask the auctioneer to clarify the increment if you are unsure and change has been announced.

If you are a regular and have already established a payment record, ask the bookkeeper about opening an account and paying for all your purchases at the end of the day.

If you cannot be present at the auction, or if you want to avoid over